

(b) and (c) At present, three Foreign Institutional Investors of Credit Suisse Group are registered with SEBI and can trade in the market.

Banking facilities through mobile banks in rural areas

2917. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to provide banking facilities in rural areas through mobile banks in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the areas which are proposed to be covered in Orissa under the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the extant Branch Authorisation Policy, banks are encouraged to open branches in rural and under-banked areas. It is left to the banks to decide whether they want to open branches or mobile offices. RBI, while considering applications for opening branches gives weightage to the nature and scope of banking facilities provided by banks to common persons, particularly in rural and under-banked areas. The choice of the location of the branch and the nature of services offered is left to the discretion of the banks. RBI has not received any proposals from banks for opening of mobile offices in the State of Orissa.

New branches of UCBs in Uttaranchal

2918. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

SHRI KAMALAKHTAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI's Working Group on Improvement of Banking Services in Uttaranchal have recommended that Urban Co-operative Banks presently in satisfactory financial health be permitted to expand their areas of operations in the State through more branches, permitted opening currency chests, conduct foreign exchange business and be made members of various fora (SLBC, DCC, etc.) under the Lead Bank Scheme;

(b) whether the RBI has examined and accepted these recommendations;